### THRAPSTON

### RURAL DISTRICT,

1913.

What I



OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

C. N. ELLIOTT, B.A., M.B.

OUNDLE

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### OUNDLE,

MARCH 11TH, 1914.

TO THE CHAIRMAN,

THRAPSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SIR,

I have again much pleasure in presenting my Report on the health of your District for the past year.

I propose, for the convenience of the respective County Medical Officers of Health, to treat first of the whole District, and then of the Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire portions separately.

Tables will be found at the end of this Report dealing fully with the Births, Deaths, and Infectious Diseases which occurred during the past year.

Statistics.

Referring to Table I it will be seen that the births numbered 203, giving the very low rate of 17.2—by far the lowest yet recorded. A few years ago the rate was always about 24 per thousand, and the first considerable drop occurred in the year 1911, and apparently is going to be maintained.

The number of nett deaths amounted to 170, giving a rate of 14.7.

Infectious Disease.

Table II gives the cases of Infectious Disease notified during Disease. the year.

Thirty-two cases of Scarlatina were reported; a considerable number, but still a marked reduction on the two previous years.

There were four cases of Enteric Fever notified, but certainly two, and I think three, were of a doubtful character.

One fatal case of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis was reported. The history briefly was as follows:—On December 16th a child aged five, living near Great Addington, was taken ill at school, and was seen next day by a medical man, who diagnosed the case as Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. The child died the same day after eighteen hours' illness. I received the report of the death and the notification by the same post. The home of the child

was an isolated farmhouse in fairly good condition, but the Sanitary Inspector reported that the drains were defective. No other case of illness was reported from the school. The bedding was destroyed, and the room in which the child died was disinfected. The owner of the property agreed to do all necessary work.

Twenty-four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, as against 26 in the previous year. The other forms of Tuberculosis—that is to say, Tuberculosis in any part of the body except the lungs—were mainly chronic cases of long standing.

Causes of Death.

Table III gives the principal causes of death.

The most important of these are: Cancer, 21—a very considerable increase on past years, and for which I see no explanation. Preventive medicine has as yet done nothing to check the disease. Personally, I am inclined to the view that it is epidemic in character. Working as I do among a large number of small villages I am in a better position to observe this than a Medical Officer of Health for a large town, and I would advocate a really thorough disinfection of every house in which a fatal case occurred. Heart disease caused 25 deaths, and Pneumonia 6. No deaths from Diarrhæa or Enteritis are recorded.

Tuberculosis.

The notification of Tuberculosis was extended last year to all cases of the disease: previously it was only when Tuberculosis attacked the lungs.

A further advance has been made by an Order of the Board of Agriculture that all bovine animals thought to be suffering from Tuberculosis should be reported to the police.

The county undertook the duties imposed by this order. Your officers have nothing to do with the general working of the order, but the police notify any cases on farms to your clerk, who sends them on to me. This is done to enable us to find out if the cases have occurred among the stock of registered cowkeepers. If this is the case it would then be the duty of the Sanitary Inspector, who is also Inspector of Cowsheds, to visit and ascertain whether the milk of any diseased cow is being supplied to the public. The notification should be transmitted to the Sanitary Inspector in the first instance, as he keeps the book containing the register.

Thirty-two primary visits were paid to Tubercular cases, and twelve secondary ones.

The detection of unrecognised cases is carried out by the Tuberculosis Official.

All fatal cases are now reported to me by the registrar, and the houses and bedding are disinfected as far as the limited means at our disposal will admit. One house in which six cases were detected in Thrapston was reported under the Housing Act as being very

damp and unwholesome. The family removed to Woodford, where I again saw them, and found them much improved. The house at Thrapston was disinfected and repaired by the owner of the property.

The notifications were more evenly distributed this year than in the previous one. Thrapston heads the list with twelve cases but I have already mentioned that six of these came from one house. Ringstead came next with seven; Woodford had four; and the rest are variously distributed between a number of villages with one or two each—as Islip, Sudborough, Denford, Chelveston, and Little Addington.

The duties of the Medical Officer of Health are, I think, not very clearly understood by your Council with regard to Tuberculosis. The Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Local Government Board for 1913 explains them. The report states:—

"Public Health action following notification.—Article XII of the new regulations direct that the Medical Officer of Health or an officer of the local authority acting under the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health shall make such inquiries and take such steps as may be necessary for investigating the source of the infection; for preventing the spread of infection; and for removing conditions favourable to infection.

"Hitherto the Medical Officer of Health has been handicapped by the difficulty of securing expert aid in examining contacts, and has been obliged to carry out this investigation more or less imperfectly. Under the new conditions it is hoped that the services of the Tuberculosis Officers will be available for this work.

"It will be observed that the Medical Officer of Health is made responsible for the action needed to trace sources of infection, to prevent the spread of infection, or to remove conditions favourable to infection. This responsibility rests with him whatever may be the local system of organisation as to Tuberculosis.

"The officers of the tuberculosis dispensary acting independently can only deal with the cases attending the dispensary, including those applying for Sanatorium Benefit, and cannot undertake the work of cleansing, disinfection, or other sanitary improvements that may be needed.'

Ophthalmia

Ophthalmia Neonatorum is added to the list of diseases Neonatorum, which are to be notified. It is an inflammation of the evelids caused by septic poisoning, and met with among infants a few days after birth. If not promptly treated it often leads to total blindness. Many of those sad cases in which people are said to be blind from birth are really victims of this disease—thirty-six per cent. of the children in blind schools.

> As I have never practised in your District I have no means of knowing whether many cases are likely to be notified; but I

expect that genuine ones will be rare, but that there will be a number of false alarms.

The Order comes into force on April 1st, and the disease is to be notified either by a medical man or a midwife.

### Isolation

The question of providing an Isolation Hospital has been Hospital and again discussed, but without any practical result. I would again Disinfection, urge upon your Council the desirability of procuring a disinfector for clothes, bedding, &c. The cost to the District would not be great. There need be no expensive building; I should advise an iron shed of a temporary character to hold the apparatus, and if a hospital was afterwards erected it could be transferred to some suitable building adjoining it. I have several times been asked questions by ratepayers as to our method of disinfection, and I have always been obliged to admit that it was not at all so efficient as I considered necessary.

### Housing Act.

Housing Act.—In carrying out the duties imposed by the Housing Act I have been assisted by Mr. Lloyd, the Sanitary Inspector, and he has given me most valuable help, but always under protest, stating that as he had never been designated for the work it was not part of his duty to take any part in carrying out the Act. I asked your Council that he be designated for the work, in accordance with what I understand is the intention of the Local Government Board, contained in their Order, 1910, No. 919, but your Council declined to make the appointment.

I must again ask the Council to give this matter their careful consideration, as I feel sure it would materially contribute to improved working of the Act. I do not mean that a number of houses are waiting to be condemned; there never were many of them, and we have about come to the end of what there were. I know the District thoroughly, and consider the housing as a whole to be good; but undoubtedly minor defects exist—as want of ventilation, imperfect flooring, lack of spouting, and defective roofs. All these will be a constant work. I also lay special stress on the provision of washhouses for cottages or groups of cottages. I know that there are a good many houses without this convenience. From their recent inquiries the Local Government Board evidently expect that a complete record should be made of all houses below the rent limit in the District. ought to be the duty of the designated officer; it is evident that I could not possibly undertake anything of the kind.

The work of the past year has been as follows:— Houses personally inspected ... 63 No. condemned as incapable of repair T No. dealt with for repairs under Section XV. 2 I No. needing no repairs 23 Re-inspection ... 14 Summary of Defects found in above houses.

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The defects were remedied in 16 cases, and two are postponed and will be brought up again this year. The houses inspected are situated in Thrapston, Ringstead, Woodford, Brigstock, Brington, and Old Weston.

I am not aware of any new houses having been finished during the past year.

I do not think there is any demand for cottages for agricultural labourers, but I understand that there is a demand at Twywell. These would be for ironstone workers. The matter is being considered by your Council.

I have advised that building bye-laws were required for the District, and the matter is also under consideration.

### Sanitary Inspector's Report.

### REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

ctor's The work of the Sanitary Inspector—Mr. Lloyd—has been Report. efficiently carried out. In his Report he states:—

"During the year 264 nuisances have been dealt with, usually by verbal orders which have been complied with. The nuisances consisted of house refuse requiring removal, choked-up drains, bricks out of order round drains, and defective roofs to dwelling-houses.

"The 17 slaughter-houses have been frequently visited, and have been found fairly well kept.

"There are 23 bakehouses in the District, and they have been regularly inspected, and always found in a clean condition.

"The 14 registered cowsheds are kept regularly white-washed, but some of the floors are not washed as often as they should be.

"New sewers have been laid down in Aldwincle and Tichmarsh which will prove very beneficial.

"The water supply at Woodford has been improved by the erection of an oil engine; the wind motor often failed for want of wind.

"The inspection of workplaces has also been regularly carried out, and the lists of outworkers supplied to me at the times arranged.

"I remain,
"Yours obediently,
"Thos. Lloyd."

Workshops.

I visited the two heel workshops at Ringstead, and drew attention to the want of cleanliness. I will visit them again at an early date.

The Factory Inspector drew attention to the want of proper sanitary convenience at Brigstock, and two new water-closets were ordered.

I visited the dressmaking establishments at Thrapston, and found them carried on in a satisfactory manner.

### HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

Hunts. Parishes.

Parishes. Two cases of Enteric Fever were notified from Bythorn. I think that the doctor who reported them was justified in doing so, but he quite agreed with me in considering them to be very doubtful cases.

A case of Scarlatina reported from Old Weston may also be classed as doubtful; there was no history of infection, and no other cases followed, although there were several children in the house. These were the only cases of infectious disease notified.

No case of tuberculosis was reported.

### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

Thrapston.

In the early part of the year I again drew the attention of your Council to the necessity of providing a public water supply for Thrapston. As the Parish Council was at that time applying for Urban Powers, the matter was adjourned for the decision of the County Council.

When the latter body decided, after inquiry, not to grant Urban Powers to Thrapston, the water question at once came up again before your Council, who referred it to the Thrapston Parish Council, who passed a resolution that it was desirable to have a public water supply for the town.

Now that the usual opposition to having one of the first necessaries of life has been overcome, I congratulate the Parish Council for having passed such a wise resolution. There is no doubt the work will go on to a satisfactory conclusion.

I think Islip should be included in the scheme, and if the time is not ripe for this to be done, the idea should be kept in view. It would be a great benefit to Islip and materially lessen the cost to Thrapston.

I was sorry to see so many cases of Tuberculosis notified in the town: otherwise the health, as far as any infectious illness is concerned, has been good.

A few cases of Scarlatina were seen, but the disease did not spread.

Aldwincle.

I made careful investigation as to the origin of a case of Enteric Fever which was seen at Aldwincle Rectory in June.

I found that the Rectory was supplied from two sources: (a) from a well close to the house known to be polluted (an analysis confirmed this) but not supposed to be used for drinking purposes; but still there was access to it; (b) from a spring on the top of a hill three-quarters of a mile away, and which also supplied several other houses in the village. Samples of water were sent to two analysts: although they did not agree, still the circumstances of the case, the isolation of the spring, and the fact that the other families using the water remained healthy, led me to conclude that the water was quite wholesome.

The well at the house is now closed.

Slipton.

Cases of Scarlatina—eight in all—were seen at Slipton in September. Children from Slipton attend Twywell school. I did not advise the closing of this school, but the Slipton children were kept at home for six weeks.

Cases of Scarlatina were also seen at Stanwick, Ringstead, and Woodford, but they did not lead to any epidemic.

I remain, Sir,

Yours obediently,

C. N. ELLIOTT, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health, Thrapston Rural District.

TABLE I.

### Thrapston Rural District.

## Vital Statistics of WHOLE DISTRICT during 1913 and previous years.

Nett.  Number. Rate.	Un- corrected Number.  3 4 264 270 266 215 249 250	10 U 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
2.41	203	

Area of District in acres (land and inland water).....47,284.

 ${2,886 \atop 2,886}$  At Census,  ${4.5 \atop 4.5}$ 

The rates are calculated per 1000 of the estimated gross population.

\* "Transferable Deaths" are deaths of persons who, having a fixed or usual residence in England or Wales, die in a district other than that in which they resided.

TABLE

Vital Statistics of NORTHANTS. PORTION of the District during 1913 and previous years.

•	•	•	•	•	14.8	At Census,
•	:	* * *	•	•	158	
:	:	•	:	•	88.3	Попа
•	:	•	:	•	17	l ages
:	:	*	:	:	14	Total population at all ages  Number of inhabited houses
:	•	•	:	•	I	tal popula mber of ir
:	:	:	:		11.3	T o N o
:	•		:	•	145	
•	:	:	:		2.21	
		:		*	189	
•		*	•		188	ıd and
•	•	•	•	10,649	10,659	Area of Portion in acres (land and inland water)
1008	1000	1910	1011	1912	1913	rrea of Porti

# Vital Statistics of HUNTS. PORTION of the District during 1913 and previous years.

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•	:	:	:	٠			
•	•	•	•	12.0		9.0	
•	•	0 0	•	14			
:	:	:		6.81		10.2	
-	•	:	:	12		14	
•	•	•	:	12		14	
•	*	•		998		804	
8061	6061	0161	1161	1912		1913	

Area of Portion in acres (land and inland water)..... 10,448.

At Census, 863 Total population at all ages......Number of inhabited houses .......

### TABLE III.

### Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913. Northants. Portion of District.

	66	Nett Resi	Deat idents or v	hs at '' wh vithou	nethei	rocci	rring rict.	with	in	Total Deaths whether of "Residents"
Causes of Death.	All ages.	Under I year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	or "non- Residents" in Institutions in the District.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	19	IO	II
All causes { Certified				1						
5 Whooping Cough 7 Influenza	2 5	2					***		5	
losis)		I			  I	3  I	3 1	9	8	I
14 Meningitis	II		2		I	I	2	6	I4 II 2	I I
organs  Appendicitis and Typhlitis  Cirrhosis of Liver	2 2	• • •	I	2		• • •		I	I	
22 Nephritis and Bright's Disease 25 Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	8	8		1		2		4	2	·
<ul> <li>Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide</li> <li>Suicide</li> <li>Suicide</li> <li>Other Defined Diseases</li> <li>Diseases ill-defined or unknown</li> </ul>	56	6	I		I		I 2	I I 8 I	39	7
Totals	158	17	4	2	5	7	9	31	83	10
Hunts.	Po	ort	ion	of	D	istı	rict			
All causes { Certified							· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
9 Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) 12 Cancer, malignant disease 14 Meningitis 15 Organic Heart Disease 16 Bronchitis 17 Pneumonia (all forms) 28 Other Defined Diseases	3 2 1 1	  I			2		I	I	2 I I I	
Totals	12	I	0	0	2	0	2	2	5	

### TABLE IV.

### Thrapston Rural District.

### INFANT MORTALITY.

1913. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under I Year of Age.

		1 1	cai	O1	Age						
Causes of Death.		Under 1 week.	I-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under I year.
$ \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{6} 1$	• • •	6	2 I	···I	I	9 2	2	2	2		16 2
Small-pox Chicken-pox Measles Scarlet fever Whooping-Cough Diphtheria and Croup Erysipelas Tuberculous Meningitis Abdominal Tuberculosis Other Tuberculous Diseas							1		1		2
Meningitis (not Tuberculor Convulsions Laryngitis	us) 		3			3		• • •		• • •	3
Bronchitis Pneumonia (all forms)  Diarrhœa Enteritis Gastritis Syphilis Rickets Suffocation, overlying Injury at birth Atelectasis				1				I		I	1 1
Congenital Malformations Premature birth Atrophy, Debility and		6				6					6
Marasmus Other Causes			• • •		I			I			2 I
Totals	• • •	6	3	I	I	11	2	2	2	I	18

Nett Births in { legitimate.....201 the year { illegitimate... 1

Nett Deaths in { legitimate infants.....17 the year of { illegitimate infants .. I

### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1913, for the Rural District of Thrapston,

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

### Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

### 1.-INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

		Number of	
Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions.
(1)	(2)	(37	(4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises	65	4 6	none none
included in Part 3 of this Report)	28	4	none
Total	104	14	none

### 2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

	Numb	er of D	efects.	
l'articulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to II.M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecu- tions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:-*				
Want of cleanliness		5	none	none
Want of ventilation	1	none	none	none
Overcrowding		none	none	none
Want of drainage of floors	1	none	none	none
Other nuisances	1	4	none	none
( insufficient		none	none	none
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	1	I	none	none
not separate for sexes	. none	none	none	none
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:-				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	. none	none	none	none
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	none	none	none	none
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)	. none	none	none	none
Total	. 10	10	none	none

<sup>\*</sup> Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

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		-	ade	oii u s	Order (S.	(15)	none															none
OUTWO	SECTIONS		°Sê	out	stenI	(14)	none															none
UN- PREM-	1 108.		suc	iina	Prosec	(13)	none															none
SOME P	WHOLESOME FREMISES, SECTION 108.	. [	)ə.ı.	198	Notices	(12)	none				_											none
OUTWORK	WHOLE ISES, S		°S-	əəu'	starI	(11)	none															none
-		tions.		ot g .etei	Failing Send li	(10)	none															none
		Prosecutions.	J - [	11 11	ailing to mrap ro pection	0	none															none
	10N 107.	S	rs a g or sts.	əiqi griq	Notices on Occur to keep sending	33	none															none
	SECTION		ear.	Jutworkers.	Work-	(2)	none															none
1 '	LISTS,	ployers	Once in the year.	Outwo	Con- ractors.	1(0)	none															none
	RKERS	om Em	Once		Lists.	(5)	none	adarra a dradigadilarika (hara-hara-ha														none
	Outworkers'	Lists received from Employers	year.	rkers.	Work- men.	(4)	m															7
	Ŭ	ists rec	Twice in the year.	Outworkers	Con-	(3)	m									<u>.</u>						2
			Twice		Lists.	(2)	6 none 3 none I	none none none	none	3 none	I none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	1
		1						* * *	* * *	• • •	o o	• •	: :	:	: :	:		:	•	rs,	:	
				NATURE OF WORK.		(1)	Wearing Apparel————————————————————————————————————	Electro-plate Elle making		Anchors and graphers Cart gear Locks, latches and keys		Nets, other than wire nets Tents	Sacks Sacks Racquet and tennis balls	Paper, &c., boxes, paper bags	Pea picking	Feather sorting	Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. Stuffed fovs	ing		Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, &c.	Textile weaving	Total

### 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Registe	(1)	131) at	the end	of the	year.		Number. (2)
Factories with machinery Workshops without machinery Workplaces ditto ditto		•••	•••		• • •		11 65 28
With the exception of Bakehous almost unoccupied, as the Almost the whole of the sho	v were	e used	mostly	for sh	ne wo	·le	
Total number of Works	shops o	on Regi	ster	• • •	• • •		104

### 5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class. (1)						Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of H. Failure to affix Abstract of the Factor 1901) Action taken in matters referred by under the Public Health Acts, but Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901):—  Notified by H.M. Inspector Reports (of action taken) sent	H.M. ut not	Wor Insp unde	ector as r the F	remed actory	iable and	I Factory closets,
Other  Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):— Certificates granted during the year In use at the end of the year						none There are no underground bake- houses.

C. N. ELLIOTT,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 17th, 1914.